Applicant: Shohei Koide Serial No.: 09/903,412

Filed : July 11, 2001
Page : 2 of 9

Attorney's Docket No.: 17027.003US1

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## IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently amended) A modified human fibronectin type III (Fn3) molecule comprising a stabilizing mutation of at least one residue involved in an unfavorable electrostatic interaction as compared to the wild-type human Fn3, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of Asp 7, Asp 23 or Glu 9 with a neutral or positively charged amino acid residue, wherein amino acid residue 6 is Arg.

## 2-3. (Canceled)

- 4. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 1, wherein Asp 7 or Asp 23, or both, have been substituted with an asparagine (Asn) or lysine (Lys) residue.
- 5-6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 1, wherein Glu 9 has been substituted with an asparagine (Asn) or lysine (Lys) residue.
- 8. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 1, wherein Asp 7, Asp 23, and Glu 9 have been substituted with a neutral or positively charged amino acid residue.
- 9-54. (Canceled)
- 55. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 1, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of Asp 7, Asp 23 or Glu 9 with a neutral amino acid residue.
- 56. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 1, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of Asp 7, Asp 23 or Glu 9 with a positively charged amino acid residue.

Applicant : Shohei Koide Attorney's Docket No.: 17027.003US1

Scrial No.: 09/903,412 Filed: July 11, 2001 Page: 3 of 9

57. (Currently amended) A modified human tenth type III module of fibronectin (FNfn10) molecule comprising a stabilizing mutation of at least one residue involved in an unfavorable electrostatic interaction as compared to the wild-type human FNfn10 molecule, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of amino acid residues 7, 9 or 23 with a neutral or positively charged amino acid residue, wherein amino acid residue 6 is Arg.

- 58. (Canceled)
- 59. (Previously presented) The modified FNfn10 of claim 57, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of amino acid residues 7, 9 or 23 with a neutral amino acid residue.
- 60. (Previously presented) The modified FNfn10 of claim 57, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of amino acid residues 7, 9 or 23 with a positively charged amino acid residue.
- 61. (Previously presented) The modified FNfn10 of claim 57, wherein amino acid residues 7 or 23, or both, have been substituted with an asparagine (Asn) or lysine (Lys) residue.
- 62. (Previously presented) The modified FNfn10 of claim 57, wherein amino acid residue 9 has been substituted with an asparagine (Asn) or lysine (Lys) residue.
- 63. (Previously presented) The modified FNfn10 of claim 57, wherein amino acid residues 7, 9 and 23 have been substituted with a neutral or positively charged amino acid residue.
- 64. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 1, wherein amino acid residue 1 is Val.
- 65. (Canceled)

Attorney's Docket No.: 17027.003US1

Applicant: Shohei Koide

Serial No.: 09/903,412 Filed: July 11, 2001

Page : 4 of 9

- 66. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 55, wherein Asp 7 is substituted with a neutral amino acid.
- 67. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 56, wherein Asp 7 is substituted with a positive amino acid.
- 68. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 55, wherein Glu 9 is substituted with a neutral amino acid.
- 69. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 56, wherein Glu 9 is substituted with a positive amino acid.
- 70. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 55, wherein Asp 23 is substituted with a neutral amino acid.
- 71. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 56, wherein Asp 23 is substituted with a positive amino acid.
- 72. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 4, wherein Asp 7 is substituted with an Asn residue.
- 73. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 4, wherein Asp 7 is substituted with a Lys residue.
- 74. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 7, wherein Glu 9 is substituted with an Asn residue.
- 75. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 7, wherein Glu 9 is substituted with a Lys residue.

Attorney's Docket No.: 17027.003US1

Applicant: Shohei Koide

Serial No.: 09/903,412 Filed: July 11, 2001

Page : 5 of 9

76. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 4, wherein Asp 23 is substituted with an Asn residue.

- 77. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 4, wherein Asp 23 is substituted with a Lys residue.
- 78. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 57, wherein amino acid residue 1 is Val.
- 79. (Canceled)
- 80. (New) A modified human fibronectin type III (Fn3) molecule comprising a stabilizing mutation of at least one residue involved in an unfavorable electrostatic interaction as compared to the wild-type human Fn3, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of Asp 7 or Asp 23 with a positively charged amino acid residue.
- 81. (New) The Fn3 of claim 80, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of Asp 7, with a positively charged amino acid residue.
- 82. (New) The Fn3 of claim 80, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of Asp 23, with a positively charged amino acid residue.